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DISILLUSION

A scholar,
Weary of erecting the fragile towers of words,
Went on a pilgrimage to Asama-Yama;
And seeing the force of the fire
Spouting from this mighty mountain,
Hurled himself into its crater
And perished.

PAPER FISHES

The paper carp,
At the end of its long bamboo pole,
Takes the wind into its mouth
And emits it at its tail.
So is man,
Forever swallowing the wind.

MEDITATION

A wise man,
Watching the stars pass across the sky,
Remarked:
In the upper air the fireflies move more slowly.

THE CAMELLIA TREE OF MATSUE

At Matsue
There was a Camellia Tree of great beauty